

Questions? Additional questions or concerns about the material addressed in this brochure can be referred to your municipal weights and measures official(s), to the State Consumer Protection Hotline at 800/422-7128 or to one of the following State Consumer Protection Offices:

Northeast Region
Suite 146A
Pkwy
200 N Jefferson
Green Bay WI 54301
920/448-5110

Northwest Region
3610 Oakwood Hills
Eau Claire WI 54701
715/839-3848

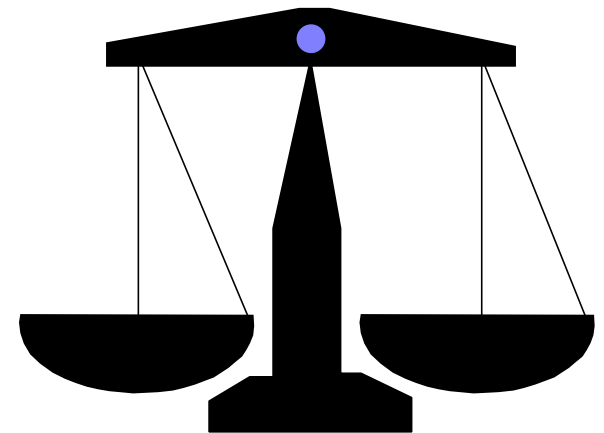
Southeast Region
Suite C
10930 W Potter Rd
Milwaukee WI 53226
414/266-1231

Southwest Region
2811 Agriculture Dr
PO Box 8911
Madison WI 53708
608/224-4960

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THE BASICS OF TARE



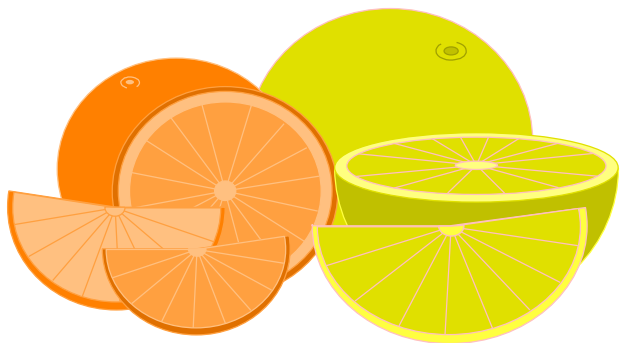
**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection**

Weights and Measures Section

What is tare? Tare is all material used in the packaging and preservation of a product that is not part of the actual

commodity for sale. It may include boxes, trays, soakers, bags, labels, glue, ties, wrappers, prizes, gifts, coupons, garnishes, sauces, glazing, ice, wax and any other material that is not part of the actual product.

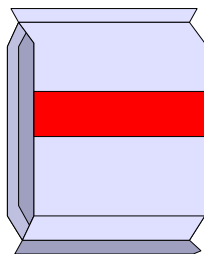
For commodities sold by weight, the declared package weight must be exclusive of the weight of tare materials.



How is the weight of tare

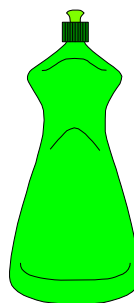
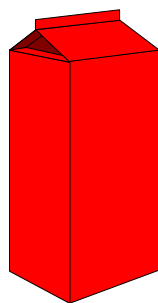
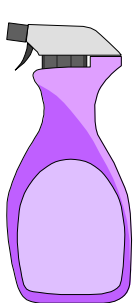
determined? Tare weight is determined by weighing clean, dry, unused or used tare materials. To set a tare, it is recommended that you average the tare weights from at least 10 packages of the same item. **For products that are sold from bulk and include individual wrappers, the weight of the individual wrappers must also be included in the tare.**

How is tare taken? Tare can either be programmed into the scale or cash register system used to weigh the product, or it can be entered manually by store personnel.



Who is responsible for determining and taking tare?

Primarily, whomever is responsible for the weight declaration on the commodity. Determining and taking an appropriate tare on products that are weighed prior to reaching the retail level is generally the responsibility of the party who packaged them. Determining and taking an appropriate tare on products that are weighed at the retail level is the responsibility of the store. Note, however, that a retail establishment can ultimately be held accountable for an incorrect net weight on any product they sell.



What are the responsibilities of store management with regard to tare? Store management is responsible for ensuring

that all tares are accurate, whether they are taken automatically or manually. This may include verifying tares for items packaged off the premises. When the packaging of a product changes, the tare must also be changed accordingly. Manual tare weights should be conspicuously posted for store personnel to reference. **Be aware that only one tare can be taken at a time, (either automatically or manually), so store personnel must weigh each package individually.** If they do not, tare for the additional packages will not be accounted for.

What if tare varies from package to package of the same commodity?

This is a common problem in the sale of random weight products, particularly bulk commodities that are individually wrapped. The more the consumer buys, the more tare has to be accounted for. One option is to use a variable tare scale that can be programmed to adjust the tare as the weight fluctuates. An alternative is to program or list the tare as the maximum that will need to be taken for any single package or purchase.

